

Application No.: 10/629300
Docket No.: CH2890USNA

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REMARKS

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This is in response to the August 10, 2006 non-final Office action.

In response to the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, applicant has amended the occurrence of "alumina hydrate" to read "alumina hydrate". Applicant wishes to thank the examiner for noting this typographical error.

Applicant has deleted the phrase "and the synthetic hectorite clay of the slurry for reducing the viscosity of the slurry compared to the viscosity of the same slurry which is free of a synthetic hectorite clay" in response to the Examiner's finding that the expression is unclear. Since all advantages of the invention are inherent in the claimed composition there is no need to expressly recite the advantages.

For the examiner's convenience, rather than again amending claims 1-5 and 8-9, applicant presents new claims 10-13. Dependent claims 11-13 correspond to the previously presented dependent claims 2-3 and 8. New claim 10 relates to an aqueous paper stock mixture support for which will be found in the instant specification on page 9, lines 19-29.

Claims were rejected as being obvious over Rohrbaugh et al.

The instant claims are Jepson-type claims to highlight the nonobvious modification of the alumina trihydrate slurry component of the aqueous paper stock mixture of the invention.

In the Official action, the Examiner noted that the unexpected results obtained from incorporating synthetic hectorite clay into alumina trihydrate slurry were not persuasive since the statement regarding use in papermaking applications not taught or suggested in Rohrbaugh et al. was not positively recited as structural features. Accordingly, the claims which now positively recite an aqueous paper stock mixture are considered to distinguish nonobviously over the teaching of Rohrbaugh et al., especially since Rohrbaugh et al. is directed to coating compositions for inanimate hard surfaces and does not teach or suggest use in papermaking. While Rohrbaugh et al. mentions at page 6 [0066] "[p]rior art disclosures" relating to coating paperboard, nothing in Rohrbaugh et al. teaches or suggests the claimed aqueous paper stock mixture and the unexpected discovery of the advantages of using synthetic hectorite clay.

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In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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